

## ABSTRACT

A variable attenuator which can sequentially control attenuation effectively and has a small variation in manufacturing, is provided. The variable attenuator has a first signal input terminal; a first signal output terminal; a first control terminal receiving a control voltage; an analog/digital converter converting the control voltage to  $M$  ( $M$  is a positive integer of 2 or more) control signals; and  $N$  ( $N$  is a positive integer satisfying  $N \geq M$ ) variable impedance elements which are connected in parallel and/or in series between the first signal input terminal and the first signal output terminal, and each impedance of which is varied by either one of the control signals.